

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claim 9 through 11 as shown below.

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (Withdrawn)

9. (Currently amended) A system for providing telecommunications service to telecommunications users in a new service area during a period of growth in demand for said telecommunications service to the new service area, the system comprising:

- an office-side radio interface unit;
- a digital interface unit coupled to the radio interface unit;
- a digital signal cross-connect coupled to the digital interface unit;
- a digital loop carrier; and
- a subscriber area interface configured for communication with the telecommunications users;

wherein the radio interface unit and the digital interface unit are removable and are configured to provide ~~temporary~~ telecommunications service to the new service area over a ~~temporary~~ radio link for a limited time during the period of growth in the demand for said telecommunications service to the new service area, until permanent optical or copper plants are deployed, whereupon the radio interface unit and the digital interface unit ~~may be being~~ removed and replaced with a fiber optic cross connect or a digital distribution point when the permanent optical or copper plants are deployed to provide said telecommunications service to the new service area.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the subscriber area side interface comprises a subscriber-side radio interface unit for radio communication with the telecommunications users.

11. (Currently amended) A system for providing telecommunications service to telecommunications users in a new service area during a period of growth in demand for said telecommunications service, the system comprising:

- an office-side connection arranged for communication with a central office, the office-side connection including a first radio interface unit which communicates a first radio signal including a plurality of voice channels for communication between the central office and a plurality of subscribers in the service area; and
- a subscriber-side connection arranged for communication with a telecommunication subscriber, the subscriber-side connection including a second radio interface unit which communicates a second radio signal including a single voice channel for communication between the central office and a single subscriber in the service area;

wherein the first radio interface unit includes one or more interface components which are removable and are configured to provide ~~temporary~~ telecommunications service between the new service area and [[to]] the central office over a temporary radio link until for a limited time during the period of growth in demand for said telecommunications service and before a permanent non-radio interface is deployed, ~~and whereupon so that~~ the one or more interface components are may be removed and replaced when the permanent non-radio interface is deployed.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 further comprising a multiplexer coupled with the first radio interface unit and the second radio interface unit and which separates the single voice channel for the single subscriber from the plurality of voice channels.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the first radio signal comprises a DS3 radio signal and the second radio signal comprises a DS1 radio signal and wherein the multiplexer is a 3:1 multiplexer.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the first radio interface unit comprises a DS3 radio and a DS3 cross connect system and wherein the second radio interface unit comprises a DS1 radio.